

Voluntary Report - public distribution

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India

FAIRS Product Specific

GOI Notifies "High Risks" Food Items for Imports 2004

Approved by:

Michael Riedel
U.S. Embassy, FASNEWDELHI

Prepared by:

A. Govindan

Report Highlights:

On June 16, 2004, the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, notified a list of "high risk" food items, imports of which will be subject to 100 percent sampling. The list includes edible oils and fats, pulses and pulse products, cereals and cereal products, milk powder, condensed milk, food colors, and food additives, among other items. Prior to this notification, all food imports (with the exception of perishable food items like fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, cheese, etc.) were subject to 100 percent sampling under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Food products not on this high-risk list are subject to conditions as spelled out in the January 28, 2004 notification.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

Introduction: This report summarizes the recent notification by the Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, listing "high risk" food items, imports of which will be subject to 100 percent sampling.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading on the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests.

Type of Regulation: Final

Important Dates:

Publication Date: June 14, 2004

Effective Date: Not mentioned

Products Affected: Edible oils and fats, pulses and pulse products, cereals and cereal products, milk powder, condensed milk, infant milk food, milk cereal base weaning foods, infant formulae, food colors, food additives, natural mineral water, packaged drinking water, tea and coffee, cocoa butter equivalent or substitutes.

Agency in Charge: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Ministry of Health

Proposed Change:

Prior to this notification, all food imports (with the exception of perishable food items like fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, cheese, etc.) were subject to 100 percent sampling under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Following several representations by importers to the government regarding the high transaction cost involved in 100 percent sampling of all imported edible/food products, the GOI issued a notification on January 28, 2004, categorizing a set of food products as "high risk", which will be subject to 100 percent sampling. The notification mentioned that this list would be notified later. On June 14, 2004, the Ministry of Commerce notified this "high risk" list, which includes edible oils and fats, pulses and pulse products, cereals and cereal products, milk powder, condensed milk, infant milk food, milk cereal base weaning foods, infant formulae, food colors, food additives, natural mineral water, packaged drinking water, tea and coffee, and cocoa butter equivalent or substitutes.

All consignments of these "high risk" edible/food products imported through ports, airports, Internal Container Depots, land custom stations, and Container Freight Stations will be referred to Port Health Officers for testing, and clearance will be allowed only after receipt of a "clean" test report. Pending the receipt of a "clean" test report, such consignments may be allowed to be stored in warehouses under Section 49 of the Customs Act, 1962. If the product fails the test, Custom authorities shall ensure that the goods are re-exported out of the country by following the usual adjudication procedure, or are destroyed as required under the relevant rules.

Food products not on this high-risk list are subject to conditions as spelled out in the January 28, 2004 notification.

For the current (June 14, 2004) and prior (January 28, 2004) notifications, see:

<http://dgftcom.nic.in/exim/2000/cir/cir03/cir3703.htm>

<http://dgftcom.nic.in/exim/2000/cir/cir03/cir2503.htm>

For more information; see the Director General of Foreign Trade, GOI, website at:

<http://dgft.delhi.nic.in>

The website is mentioned for readers' convenience; USDA does **NOT** in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained in the above site.